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County Amends Sewer Agreement to Benefit Local Municipalities

LAKE COUNTY, IL – County Board Members approved an agreement today, Tuesday, October 8th, to amend the Lakes Region Sanitary District Agreement for Sewage Disposal between the Villages of Fox Lake and Volo. Board Member Bonnie Thomson Carter and officials from the Lake County Department of Public Works facilitated the deal that is expected to stimulate commercial growth along Route 12 between the communities.

The county's amendment to the existing agreement allows Volo to connect to Fox Lake's sewer system, and in exchange, Fox Lake will have access to Volo's water tower and water lines along Route 12. Under terms of the 1977 agreement, the Lakes Region Sanitary District delivers all sewage to the county interceptor sewer system. The amendment allows direct sewer service by Fox Lake.

Developers for the Volo Woods LLC parcel will benefit by a connection fee waiver in exchange for their payment of the cost for the extension to Fox Lake's system.

"This deal may have stalled without the county's involvement, which helped to broker the deal and push the timeline," said county board member Bonnie Thomson Carter. "This deal should provide a stimulus for economic development in the area, which will also provide a financial benefit to the Big Hollow School District and Grant High School."

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Officials anticipate that by providing sewer service in the area, realtors and developers will have an extra incentive to look at the area for commercial development.

According to James Raihle, President of the Lakes Region Sanitary District, “The Lakes Region Sanitary District tried unsuccessfully for several years to obtain a key easement to provide service to the Route 12 corridor. We feel that the intergovernmental agreements reached with Lake County, Volo and Fox Lake provide a suitable alternative to bring sewer and water utilities to the Route 12 corridor and several key residential areas.”

“In addition, the integrity of the sanitary district was maintained so it will have the financial means to proceed with future improvements to taxpayers. We look forward to working with the communities and the Lake County Department of Public Works in fulfilling these obligations,” Raihle added.

Board Member Carter worked with the developer, sanitary district officials and municipal governments to assure that the integrity of the Lakes Region Sanitary District boundaries remained intact and that the Fischer Estates Subdivision, Grant Township facility, Big Hollow School and other contiguous properties would receive sewer service. The original agreement passed in April benefited Volo and Fox Lake but left out users of the Lakes Region Sanitary District sewer system. The new agreement serves to benefit the county, both municipalities and users of the sewer system.

The Village of Fox Lake will benefit by receiving 30% of the sales tax generated from new businesses in Volo that connect to the Fox Lake sewer line.

Nearly 10,000 people live in the communities of Fox Lake and Volo, and according to the 2000 U.S. Census, the area’s population continues to grow along with the rest of Lake County. Fox Lake is home to the Chain O’Lakes resort area while Volo attracts visitors to Volo Bog, Fish Lake Resort, Volo Country Village and Volo Antique Auto Museum.